Conference on Disarmament

19 January 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 4 January 2018 from the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the report of the conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination

As mandated by General Assembly resolution 71/258, I have the honour to transmit herewith to the Conference on Disarmament the report of the conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination (see A/72/206).

(Signed) António Guterres

GE.18-00871(E)

1800871

Please recycle

Conference on Disarmament

19 January 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 2 January 2018 from the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the resolutions and decisions on disarmament and international security matters adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session

I have the honour to transmit herewith those resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, which make specific reference to the Conference on Disarmament, as well as the other resolutions and decisions dealing with or related to disarmament and international security matters.

(*Signed*) António Guterres

GE.18-00877(E)

1800877

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I	*At its seventy-second session, the General Assembly adopted the following resolutions that make specific reference to the Conference on Disarmament*
72/23	Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament (Fifth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
72/25	Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (Tenth, twelfth, thirteenth, sixteenth preambular paragraphs, operative paragraphs 2, 4, 5)
72/26	Prevention of an arms race in outer space (Sixth, eleventh, seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth preambular paragraphs and operative paragraphs 5, 6, 8)
72/27	No first placement of weapons in outer space (Seventh preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 2, 3)
72/31	Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations (Fifth preambular paragraph)
72/35	Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels (Operative paragraph 2)
72/37	Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world (Ninth preambular paragraph)
72/38	Nuclear disarmament (Sixteenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth, twenty-first preambular paragraphs and operative paragraphs 16, 17, 20)
72/39	Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments (Twentieth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 16)
72/50	United action with renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons (Sixteenth preambular paragraph)
72/56	Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities (Sixth, seventh preambular paragraphs and operative paragraph 3)
72/59	Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons (Ninth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 1, 2)
72/65	Report of the Conference on Disarmament (First, second, third, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, eleventh, twelfth preambular paragraphs and operative paragraphs 1 to 10)
72/66	Report of the Disarmament Commission (Operative paragraphs 4, 9)
72/251	Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament (Fourteenth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 13, 20)

II	*Other resolutions dealing with disarmament and international security matters*
72/20	Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures
72/21	Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace
72/22	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty
72/24	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East
72/28	Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament
72/29	Follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
72/30	Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons
72/32	Compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and commitments
72/33	Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context
72/34	Regional disarmament
72/36	Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices
72/40	Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them
72/41	Reducing nuclear danger
72/42	Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction
72/43	Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction
72/44	The Arms Trade Treaty
72/45	Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas
72/46	Relationship between disarmament and development
72/47	Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control
72/48	Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation
72/49	Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

II	*Other resolutions dealing with disarmament and international security matters*
72/51	International Day against Nuclear Tests
72/52	Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes
72/53	Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction
72/54	Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
72/55	Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus
72/57	The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects
72/58	Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons
72/60	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa
72/61	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
72/62	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific
72/63	Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa
72/64	United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament
72/67	The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East
72/68	Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects
72/69	Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region
72/70	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
72/71	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction
72/250	Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space

III	*Decisions on disarmament and international security matters*[*]

[*] These decisions will be issued as an addendum to this document at a later stage.

III	*Decisions on disarmament and international security matters**
72/511	Joint panel discussion of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability
72/512	Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security
72/513	Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices
72/514	Nuclear disarmament verification
72/515	Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty)
72/516	Provisional programme of work and timetable of the First Committee for 2018
72/517	Programme planning

All documents and records on disarmament and international security items were distributed during the seventy first session of the General Assembly to all Members of the United Nations, including all members of the Conference on Disarmament.

Conference on Disarmament

24 January 2018

Original: English

Agenda for the 2018 session

(Adopted at the 1434th plenary meeting on 23 January 2018)

Taking into account, *inter alia*, the relevant provisions of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and deciding to resume its consultations on the review of its agenda, and without prejudice to their outcome, the Conference adopts the following agenda for its 2018 session:

1. Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament.
2. Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters.
3. Prevention of an arms race in outer space.
4. Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
5. New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons.
6. Comprehensive programme of disarmament.
7. Transparency in armaments.
8. Consideration and adoption of the annual report and any other report, as appropriate, to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

GE.18-01086(E)

1801086

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Conference on Disarmament

29 January 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 24 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament regarding the requests for participation in the work of the conference during 2018 from non-member States

I have the honour to inform you that Turkey accepts the list contained in document CD/WP.604 with the understanding emphasized in and circulated with documents CD/1438 and CD/1738.

I would appreciate it if this letter could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): Naci Koru
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.18-01158(E)
1801158

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Conference on Disarmament

19 February 2018

Original: English

Note Verbale dated 1 February 2018 from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament, transmitting the Chair's Summary of the International Workshop "Promoting the effective implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004) in the context of evolving proliferation risks and challenges", which took place on 2-3 November 2017 in Kyiv (Ukraine)

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to transmit herewith the Chair's Summary of the International Workshop "Promoting effective implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in the context of evolving proliferation risks and challenges", which took place on 2–3 November 2017 in Kyiv (Ukraine).

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine would highly appreciate if the Chair's Summary could be issued as an official document of the CD and circulated to all Member States and observer States of the Conference.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine avails itself of its opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament the assurances of its highest consideration.

GE.18-02484(E)

1802484

Please recycle

Chair's Summary of the International Workshop "Promoting the effective implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004) in the context of evolving proliferation risks and challenges"

2-3 November 2017, Kyiv, Ukraine

1. International non-proliferation efforts are outlined by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), adopted unanimously on 28 April 2004. It was the first formal decision ever taken by the Security Council which added a new dimension to the issue of non-proliferation by addressing the prevention of proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery to and the misuse of related materials by non-state actors, including terrorists.

2. Given the increasing risks of proliferation arising from the rapid advances in science, technology and international commerce as well as from growing terrorist threat, and the need for States to pay constant attention to these developments to ensure effective implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004), Ukraine, in cooperation with UNODA and the OSCE, held the International Workshop "Promoting the effective implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004) in the context of evolving proliferation risks and challenges".

3. More than 45 participants from UN Member States and international organizations (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), 1540 Committee Group of Experts, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), World Custom Organization (WCO) and EU) met in Kyiv on 2nd and 3rd November 2017 to discuss progress in, and challenges to, the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) aimed at preventing proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery to non-State actors.

4. The main purpose of the Workshop was to address implementation issues, including evolving proliferation risks and challenges to enhance practical, operational and enforcement cooperation among the Member States, international and regional organizations.

5. Accordingly, the Workshop was focused on i) importance of coordination of efforts in promoting implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004) taking into account Resolution 2325 (2016), ii) current risks in the context of developments in science, technology and international commerce, iii) strengthening chemical, biological and nuclear security - effective practices, iv) role of the 1540 Committee, the UN and the OSCE in the implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004): lessons learned, current state of affairs and future perspectives, v) way ahead: enhanced interaction and coordination of efforts.

Ukraine would like to share the main discussion points, which were compiled together with representatives of the UN Member States and international organizations, as follows:

(a) Resolution 1540 (2004) reaffirmed that proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as well as their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security and requires all States to refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer, or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, and their means of delivery;

(b) It was acknowledged that Resolution 1540 (2004) is an international legally binding instrument, which helps to prevent terrorists and criminal organizations from obtaining the world's most dangerous weapons;

(c) Resolution 1540 (2004) has been playing a crucial role in global and regional non-proliferation efforts for 13 years;

(d) The responsibility for the implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004) is carried by Member States.

(e) The importance of UNSC Resolution 2325 (2016) was noted;

(f) The 1540 Committee's report on the Comprehensive Review, concluded in December 2016, found that, while many States have taken important steps to strengthen prohibitions and controls on WMD and their means of delivery in fulfilment of their 1540 obligations, gaps remain in key areas, especially in biological security;

(g) It is important that all States enact and enforce "appropriate" and "effective" laws to prevent the spread of WMD to non-State actors while universal, full implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004) remains the ultimate goal;

(h) Developments in the nature of terrorism, as well as the rapid advances in science, technology and international commerce require continued attention when implementing Resolution 1540 (2004) at national, regional and international levels;

(i) Assistance mechanisms for the provision of advisory and technical support serve as a useful tool for States seeking assistance to implement their obligations under Resolution 1540 (2004). The participants recognized the useful role of the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities in support of Resolution 1540 (2004);

(j) Implementing the Resolution and receiving assistance to that end offers multiple benefits for many governments, helping to prevent proliferation and terrorism as well as fulfilling fundamental security goals. Each country's implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004) will help to protect all countries from proliferators, serving to create a level playing field;

(k) Intensification of efforts were supported to develop and strengthen the cooperative interactions among States and building synergies among key stakeholders, including relevant international, regional, sub-regional, nongovernmental organizations and industry;

(l) The role of international, regional organizations in Resolution 1540 (2004) implementation efforts in line with their respective mandates was also acknowledged;

(m) It was noted that there was a need to combat illicit trafficking of WMD-related materials and in this regard to establish efficient national export and border controls;

(n) It was noted that drafting voluntary National Action Plans for the implementation of the Resolution could be helpful;

(o) The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is currently the lowest hanging fruit in nuclear weapons disarmament. An in-force CTBT would not only help unlock progress in regions such as East Asia and in the broader NPT context, it would also bolster international efforts to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons to non-State actors;

(p) Participating States/Customs administrations should take advantage of the WCO's Strategic Trade Control Enforcement (STCE) Programme and assist them in developing an organizational framework and technical skills to implement Resolution 1540 (2004);

(q) Participating States/Customs Administrations should actively participate in Operation Cosmo 2 and use this operation as a mechanism to promote countering proliferation activity within their administrations and identify capacity and capability gaps, which they can address;

(r) It was noted that in view of possible proliferation risks, emerging technologies such as 3D printing, drones, gene editing, nanotechnologies may require additional attention. However, it was reaffirmed that prevention of WMD proliferation and developments in science and technology should not hamper international cooperation for peaceful purposes;

(s) Awareness-raising and education are effective tools to decrease risks associated with life sciences research having 'dual use' characteristics.

Recommendations:

(a) To improve control over cross-border movements of materials that could contribute to WMD proliferation, without prejudice to the developments in science and technology for peaceful uses;

(b) To pay proper attention to fostering the CBRN security culture and strengthening and promoting awareness and responsibility among those dealing with CBRN materials who could be encouraged to additionally develop codes of conduct in their respective fields;

(c) To develop, implement and update the national legislation in the area of OP3 of Resolution 1540 (2004);

(d) Risks in biological area require additional attention due to the lack of a relevant institution that could assist States to counter effectively the possible use of such weapons;

(e) To intensify cooperation with states, international organizations, industry, civil society, scientific community and support efforts to promote a wide dissemination of effective Resolution 1540 implementation practices in order to facilitate national implementation efforts as well as international and regional cooperation in this area;

(f) To establish focal points on the implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004) by States and interested international and regional organizations;

(g) To encourage States to make further use of assistance mechanisms by submitting detailed assistance requests;

(h) To create synergies and enhance cooperation with international, regional and sub-regional organizations in addressing issues relating to implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004).

Conference on Disarmament

19 February 2018

Original: English

Decision

(Adopted at the 1442nd plenary meeting on 16 February 2018)

The Conference on Disarmament,

Cognizant of its role as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum established by the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I),

Noting that it provides its Member States with a platform to engage in negotiations, on the basis of the rule of consensus,

Convinced that disarmament and arms limitations, particularly in the nuclear field, contributes to the prevention of the danger of nuclear war and strengthening of international peace and security,

Taking into account developments in the field of international peace and security of concern to the Conference,

In pursuance of its agenda contained in CD/2116,

Noting that the agenda continues to provide the opportunity to address contemporary disarmament and international security challenges,

Recalling paragraph 28 of its rules of procedure which calls on the Conference to establish its programme of work on the basis of its agenda,

Taking into account the several proposals tabled since 2000 for the programme of work of the Conference and the interest to see the Conference return to substantive work,

Conscious of the need to conduct its work in a balanced and comprehensive manner,

Without prejudice to the right of any member State of the Conference to raise any subject relevant to the work of the Conference at a plenary and to further decisions that may be taken on substantive work,

And without prejudice to the rules of procedure of the Conference and the responsibilities entrusted to the President under the rules of procedure of the Conference on Disarmament, in particular rule 29 for drawing up the programme of work of the Conference,

Cognizant of the complex nature of the issues under its purview and the wide range of perspectives thereon,

Seeking to advance the substantive work of the Conference in fulfilment of its mandate in accordance with SSOD I,

decides:

1. To establish, in accordance with Paragraph 23 of its rules of procedure, subsidiary bodies on agenda items 1 (one) to 4 (four), and one on agenda items 5 (five), 6 (six) and 7

(seven), which could also consider emerging and other issues relevant to substantive work of the Conference. In their work the subsidiary bodies would pursue the following areas and any other areas agreed by the subsidiary bodies, in accordance with the rules of procedure:

(a) To reach an understanding on the areas of commonalities in the Conference on Disarmament by taking into consideration all relevant views and proposals past, present and future;

(b) Deepening technical discussions and broadening areas of agreement, including through the participation, in accordance with the rules of procedure, of relevant experts;

(c) Consider effective measures, including legal instruments for negotiations.

2. Each subsidiary body will be chaired by a coordinator appointed by the Conference, under the guidance of the President on the basis of equitable regional distribution.

3. The subsidiary bodies shall meet in accordance with paragraph 24 of the rules of procedure, and shall conduct their work in accordance with paragraph 18 of the rules of procedure, with even allocation of time.

4. In accordance with rule 35 of the rules of procedure, the subsidiary bodies shall remain open to all Member States of the Conference on Disarmament and to those non Member States that the Conference has invited to participate in its work during the 2018 session.

5. The report on the progress achieved and agreed on in each subsidiary body would be submitted by its coordinator to the Conference on Disarmament, through the President, for adoption and due reflection in the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

6. This decision is taken for the 2018 session, without prejudice to any subsequent decision at the beginning of the next annual sessions of the Conference on Disarmament.

Conference on Disarmament

21 February 2018

Original: English

Note verbale dated 22 August 2017 from the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, in its capacity as the Coordinator for the Group of 21, to the Secretariat of the Conference of Disarmament transmitting the G-21 Working paper on Negative security assurances

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its complements to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament, and in its capacity as the Coordinator for the Group of 21, has the honour to submit herewith the G-21 Working paper on negative security assurances.

On behalf of the Group of 21, the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka requests that the document be issued as an official Working paper of the Conference on Disarmament for the year 2017.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament the assurance of its highest consideration.

GE.18-02689(E)

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Negative security assurances

1. The Group of 21 reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The Group remains convinced that as long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of their use and proliferation persists. Therefore, as reflected in the Group's statement delivered by Nigeria on March 17, 2017, the CD should start negotiations on a phased program for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, including a nuclear-weapons convention prohibiting the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer and use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as mandated by the General Assembly of United Nations on its resolution 68/32, leading to agreement on a global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time.

2. Pending the achievement of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, the Group reaffirms the urgent need to reach an early agreement on a universal, unconditional, irrevocable and legally-binding instrument to effectively assure non-nuclear-weapon States (NNWS) against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances, as a high priority, as called for in UN General Assembly resolution 71/30. Such an instrument should be clear, credible, without any ambiguity, non-discriminatory and should respond to the concerns of all the parties. The Group stresses in particular that the negative security assurances provided under a legally-binding instrument should be without any conditions.

3. The Group reaffirms the right of non-nuclear-weapon States not to be attacked by or threatened by the nuclear-weapons States (NWS) with the use of nuclear weapons and strongly calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to refrain from any such action or threat, whether implicit or explicit.

4. The Group underlines the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

5. The Group recalls the convening of the high level meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament on 26 September 2013, which demonstrated that this issue remains a major international priority, and supports and calls for the full implementation of its related resolutions 68/32, 69/58, 70/34 and 71/71 to follow up to this meeting. The Group also highlights the importance of the commemoration of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons devoted to furthering this objective, and welcomes the decision to convene, no later than 2018, a UN high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament.

6. The Group highlights the objectives laid down in resolution 71/60 of the General Assembly entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation", which, among other things, reaffirms multilateralism as the core principle in resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns.

7. The Group underscores the need to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in strategic defence doctrines, security policies and military strategies, which not only set out rationales for the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, but also maintain unjustifiable concepts on international security based on promoting and developing military alliance's nuclear deterrence policies.

8. The Group believes that, pending the total elimination of all nuclear weapons, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, taking into account provisions of the First Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations devoted to disarmament (SSOD I), is a positive step and important measure towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this context, the Group welcomes the nuclear weapon-free zones established by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba, Semipalatinsk and Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free-status. The Group of 21 welcomes the resolution 69/66 of the General Assembly of the United Nations which decided to convene the Third Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that

Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia as a one-day Conference in New York in 2015 under the leadership of Indonesia, and notes with appreciation the various efforts deployed in this regard to produce concrete results.

9. The Group reiterates that in the context of nuclear-weapon-free zones, it is essential that nuclear-weapon States provide unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States of the zones. In this context, the Group urges nuclear-weapon states to withdraw all reservations and interpretative declarations to the Protocols of nuclear-weapon-free zones treaties.

10. The Group welcomes the formal proclamation, for the first time in history, of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, on the occasion of the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held in Havana, Cuba, on 28-29 January 2014, which includes the commitment of all States of that region to further nuclear disarmament as a priority goal and to contribute to general and complete disarmament. Hopefully, this proclamation will be followed by other political proclamations as "Zones of Peace" in other regions of the world. The Group welcomes the Political Declaration of Quito, adopted at the Fourth Summit of Latin American and Caribbean States held in Quito, Ecuador, on 27 January 2016, which reaffirms, inter alia, the commitment of CELAC to the preservation of peace and international security, political independence and nuclear disarmament conducive to general, total and verifiable disarmament. The Group also welcomes the Political Declaration of Punta Cana, adopted at the Fifth Summit of Latin American and Caribbean States held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on 25 January 2017, which reaffirms, inter alia, the commitment of CELAC achieve a total prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. CELAC reaffirms its commitment to the consolidation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and highlights its character of first ever Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco. The Group welcomes the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco on 14 February 2017 in Mexico, in the framework of the 25th Session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL).

11. The Group reiterates its strong support for the early establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of all nuclear weapons. To this end, the Group reaffirms the need for the expeditious establishment of such a zone in response to the resolution 487 (1981) and paragraph 14 of resolution 687 (1991) of the Security Council and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

12. The States Parties of the Group of 21 to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons express their disappointment and deep concern that three States Parties, including two States that bear special responsibility as NPT depositary and co-sponsors States of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons resolution on the Middle East, blocked consensus on the draft outcome document of the ninth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons including the process to establish a Middle East Zone free of Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction, as contained in the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. This could undermine efforts towards strengthening Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons regime as a whole. The States Parties of the Group of 21 to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirm that the 1995 resolution on the Middle East continues to constitute the basis for the establishment of such a zone and that the 1995 resolution remains valid until fully implemented. The States Parties of the Group of 21 to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons also express their serious concern over the lack of implementation of the 1995 resolution, and in accordance with paragraph 6 of this resolution, "Call upon all States party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to extend their cooperation and to exert their utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the early establishment by regional parties of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction," and reaffirm that the co-sponsors of the resolution must take all the necessary measures to fully implement it without further delay. The States Parties of the Group of 21 to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons express their utmost concern that the persistent

lack of implementation of the 1995 resolution, contrary to the decisions made at the relevant Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, erodes the credibility of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and disrupts the delicate balance among its three pillars, taking into account that the indefinite extension of the treaty is inextricably linked to the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. In this context, the States Parties of the Group of 21 to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirm the urgency of Israel's accession to the Treaty without further delay and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

13. While the Group believes that the nuclear-weapon-free zones are positive steps towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, it does not subscribe to the arguments that declarations that have been made by the nuclear weapon States are sufficient, or that security assurances should only be granted in the context of nuclear-weapon free zones. In addition, given their geographical limitations, security assurances guaranteed to States-members of nuclear-weapon-free zones cannot substitute for universal legally-binding security assurances.

14. The Group recalls that the demand for security assurances was raised by the non-nuclear-weapon States in the 1960s and it crystallized in 1968 during the concluding phase of the negotiations for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The response of the nuclear-weapon States, however, as reflected in resolutions 255 (1968) and 984 (1995) of the Security Council was incomplete, partial and conditional. The demand for assurances therefore persists.

15. The Group accepts that, while various approaches exist, efforts to conclude a universal and legally-binding instrument on negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States should be vigorously pursued. The Group considers that the conclusion of such an instrument would be an important step towards achieving the objectives of arms control, nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects.

16. The Group takes notes of the substantive and interactive informal discussions on Negative Security Assurances held in the CD from 18–20 June 2014 pursuant to the Schedule of Activities of the 2014 session contained in document CD/1978, on 27 August 2015 pursuant to the Schedule of Activities of the 2015 session contained in document CD/2021, and on 28-30 June 2017 under the Working Group on the Way Ahead established by decision CD/2090.